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SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
SOUTH KENSINGTON.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT EXHIBITION IN 1866.

The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have determined to hold a National Portrait Exhibition at South Kensington in the Arcades overlooking the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens which will be opened in April 1866.

This Exhibition is based upon the suggestions made by the Earl of Derby in a letter dated 6th May, 1865, from which the following extracts are made.

"I have long thought that a National Portrait Exhibition, chronologically arranged, might not only possess great historical interest by bringing together portraits of all the most eminent contemporaries of their respective eras, but might also serve to illustrate the progress and condition, at various periods, of British Art. My idea therefore would be to admit either portraits of eminent men, though by inferior or unknown artists, or portraits by eminent artists, though of obscure or unknown individuals. I have, of course, no means of knowing, or estimating, the number of such portraits which may exist in the Country; but I am persuaded that, exclusive of the large collections in many great houses, there are very many scattered about by ones and twos and threes in private families, the owners of which, though they could not be persuaded to part with them, would willingly spare them for a few months for a public object."

"The question of one, two, or three exhibitions in consecutive years, would, I apprehend, be mainly decided by the result of future inquiries as to the probable number of pictures which could be obtained, and the space which could be found for their exhibition. But whether the period over which each exhibition (if more than one) should range, be longer or shorter, the point on which I should set the greatest value, in an historical, if not in an artistic point of view, would be the strict maintenance of the chronological series. I shall be very happy if any suggestion of mine should lead the Committee of Council to take up seriously, and carry out, with such alterations of detail as experience might suggest, a scheme which I think could hardly fail of being generally interesting: and I should have much pleasure in placing temporarily at their disposal any portraits from my collection at Knowsley which they might think suitable for their purpose."

My Lords have constituted a Committee of Advice, consisting of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, and other noblemen and gentlemen, as follows.

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COMMITTEE.

The Earl of Derby, K.G., (*President*).

*The Lord President of the Council.	The Rt. Hon. Spencer Walpole, M.P.	Mr. George Harvey, P.R.S.A.
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The Earl Cowper, K.G.	The Vice Chancellor of Cambridge for the time being	Mr. William Longman
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		Rev. Dr. Wellesley,
		Mr. B. B. Woodward.
		Mr. R. N. Wornum

*Are Trustees and † Secretary of the National Portrait Gallery.

Mr. Samuel Redgrave, to whose valuable labours the successful formation of the Collection of Portrait Miniatures is chiefly due, has undertaken the special charge of directing the Exhibition, and Mr. Sketchley will act as Secretary.

By order of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.

ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED FOR THE EXHIBITION.

1. The Exhibition is specially designed to illustrate English history, and the progress of art in England. It may be divided into two or three sections representing distinct historic periods exhibited in successive years, depending upon the number of the portraits received and the space available for their proper exhibition.
2. It will comprise the portraits of persons of every class who have in any way attained eminence or distinction in England, from the date of the earliest authentic portraits to the present time; but will not include the portraits of living persons, or portraits of a miniature character.
3. In regard to art, the works of inferior painters representing distinguished persons will be admitted; while the acknowledged works of eminent artists will be received, though the portrait is unknown or does not represent a distinguished person.
4. The portraits of foreigners who have attained eminence or distinction in England will also be included, with portraits by foreign artists which represent persons so distinguished.
5. The exhibition will be held at South Kensington in the spacious brick building used for the Refreshment Rooms of the International Exhibition in 1862; and these galleries, which are perfectly dry, will be fitted up especially for the exhibition, and patrolled day and night by the police.
6. All charges for the conveyance of pictures accepted for exhibition by the Committee will be defrayed by the Department of Science and Art.
7. The exhibition will be opened early in April 1866. The portraits, for the purpose of proper arranging and cataloguing, will be received not later than the second week in February; and will be returned at the end of August at the latest; but though the exhibition will continue open till that time, any owner who requires the return of his contributions at the end of July will have them forwarded to him at once.
8. In accordance with the usual practice, the Science and Art Department, unless the owner objects, will take photographs of such portraits as may be useful for instruction in the Schools of Art, and allow them to be sold in the Museum; but no permission will be granted to any private person to photograph, without the owner's express sanction. Two copies of each photograph taken will be presented to the owner of the picture photographed.
9. As was the case at the Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862, (and as is usual at the Royal Academy and other exhibitions), the Department cannot be responsible for loss or damage, but every possible care will be taken of works lent; and it may be added that the numerous paintings lent for exhibition in 1862 were collected and returned by the same agency as will be now employed, free from any injury or damage of any kind.
10. All correspondence marked on the cover "National Portrait Exhibition," should be addressed to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum, London, W.